

APR 30 2008

| | | |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|
| <p align="center">REQUEST FOR CONTINUED EXAMINATION (RCE) TRANSMITTAL</p> <p>Subsection (b) of 35 U.S.C. §132, effective on May 29, 2000, provides for continued examination of an utility or plant application filed on or after June 8, 1995. See The American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA).</p> | Application Number | 10/521,439 |
| | Filing Date | January 14, 2005 |
| | First Named Inventor | Michio MINESHIMA |
| | Group Art Unit | 3763 |
| | Examiner Name | Christopher Koharski |
| | Attorney Docket No. | NPR-159 |

This is a Request for Continued Examination (RCE) under 37 C.F.R. §1.114 of the above-identified application.

Note: C.F.R. §1.114 is effective on May 29, 2000. If the above-identified application was filed prior to May 29, 2000, applicant may wish to consider filing a continued prosecution application (CPA) under 37 C.F.R. §1.53(d) (PTO/SB/29) instead of a RCE to be eligible for the patent term adjustment provisions of the AIPA. See Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice, Final Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 50092 (Aug. 16, 2000); Interim Rule, 65 Fed. Reg. 14885 (Mar. 20, 2000), 1233 Off. Gaz. Pat. Office 47 (Apr. 11, 2000), which established RCE practice.

1. Submission Required under 37 C.F.R. §1.114

- a. ☐ Previously submitted
- i. ☐ Consider the amendment(s)/reply under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 previously filed on _____
(any unentered amendment(s) referred to above will be entered).
- ii. ☐ Consider the arguments in the Appeal brief or Reply Brief previously filed on _____
- iii. ☐ Other _____
- b. ☒ Enclosed
- i. ☒ Amendment/Reply
- ii. ☐ Affidavit(s)/Declaration(s)
- iii. ☐ Information Disclosure Statement (IDS)
- iv. ☐ Other _____

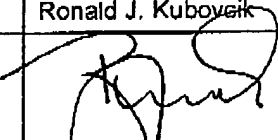
2. Miscellaneous

- a. ☐ Suspension of action on the above-identified application is requested under 37 C.F.R. §1.103 (c) for a period of _____ months (Period of suspension shall not exceed 3 months; Fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(i) required)
- b. ☐ Other _____

3. Fees The RCE fee under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e) is required by 37 C.F.R. §1.114 when the RCE is filed.

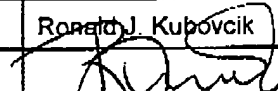
- a. ☒ The Director is hereby authorized to charge the following fees, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account No. 111833
- i. ☐ RCE fee required under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(e)
- ii. ☐ Extension of time fee (37 C.F.R. §§ 1.136 and 1.17)
- iii. ☒ Other Required Additional Fees
- b. ☐ Check in the amount of \$*00 enclosed
- c. ☒ Payment by credit card in the amount of \$1,860.00 (\$810.00 RCE fee & \$1,050.00 Extension of Time fee)
(Form PTO-2038 enclosed)

SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT REQUIRED

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|-----------------------------------|----------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Ronald J. Kubovcik | Registration No. (Attorney/Agent) | 25,401 |
| Signature |  | Date | April 30, 2008 |

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING OR TRANSMISSION

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with the sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner For Patents, Box RCE, Washington, DC 20231, or facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office on:

| | | | |
|-------------------|---|------|----------------|
| Name (Print/Type) | Ronald J. Kubovcik | Date | April 30, 2008 |
| Signature |  | | |

RJK/JBF

05/01/2008 HMARZ11 00000011 10521439

01 FC:1A01

810.00.00

PAGE 4/13 * RCVD AT 4/30/2008 12:24:51 PM [Eastern Daylight Time] * SVR:USPTO-EFXRF-5/15 * DNIS:2738300 * CSID:703 412 9345 * DURATION (mm-ss):02-24